

IN THE CLAIMS

**Please cancel claims 13, 14, and 16 without prejudice or disclaimer.**

**Please add new claims 27-29.**

**This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions of the claims in the application.**

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
  - a) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ SEQ ID NO: [[1-]]5,
  - b) a polypeptide comprising a naturally occurring amino acid sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to an amino acid sequence ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ SEQ ID NO: [[1-]]5,
  - c) a polypeptide comprising a biologically active fragment of an amino acid sequence ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ SEQ ID NO: [[1-]]5, and
  - d) a polypeptide consisting of an immunogenic fragment of an amino acid sequence ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ SEQ ID NO: [[1-]]5.
2. (Currently Amended) An isolated polypeptide of claim 1 ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: [[1-]]5.
3. (Original) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide of claim 1.
4. (Currently Amended) An isolated polynucleotide of claim 3 ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ comprising a polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: [[6-]]10.
5. (Original) A recombinant polynucleotide comprising a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide of claim 3.
6. (Original) A cell transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide of claim 5.
7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) A method for producing a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:
- culturing a cell under conditions suitable for expression of the polypeptide, wherein said cell is transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide, and said recombinant polynucleotide comprises a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of claim 1, and
  - recovering the polypeptide so expressed.
9. (Original) An isolated antibody which specifically binds to a polypeptide of claim 1.
10. (Currently Amended) An isolated polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:
- a polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ SEQ ID NO: [[6-]]10,
  - a polynucleotide comprising a naturally occurring polynucleotide sequence having at least 70% sequence identity to a polynucleotide sequence ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ SEQ ID NO: [[6-]]10,
  - a polynucleotide complementary to a polynucleotide ~~sequence complementary to~~ of a),
  - a polynucleotide complementary to a polynucleotide ~~sequence complementary to~~ of b), and
  - an RNA equivalent of a)-d).
11. (Original) An isolated polynucleotide comprising at least 60 contiguous nucleotides of a polynucleotide of claim 10.
12. (Previously Presented) A method for detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 10, the method comprising:
- hybridizing the sample with a probe comprising at least 16 contiguous nucleotides of a sequence complementary to said target polynucleotide in the sample, and which probe specifically hybridizes to said target polynucleotide, under

conditions whereby a hybridization complex is formed between said probe and said target polynucleotide, and

- b) detecting the presence or absence of said hybridization complex, and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof.

13-14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a polypeptide of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

16-19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) A method for screening a compound for effectiveness as an antagonist of a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

- a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 to a compound, and
- b) detecting antagonist activity in the sample.

21-22. (Canceled)

23. (Original) A method for screening a compound for effectiveness in altering expression of a target polynucleotide, wherein said target polynucleotide comprises a sequence of claim 4, the method comprising:

- a) exposing a sample comprising the target polynucleotide to a compound, and
- b) detecting altered expression of the target polynucleotide.

24. (Previously Presented) A method of screening for a compound that specifically binds to the polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

- a) combining the polypeptide of claim 1 with at least one test compound under suitable conditions, and
- b) detecting binding of the polypeptide of claim 1 to the test compound, thereby identifying a compound that specifically binds to the polypeptide of claim 1.

25. (Previously Presented) A microarray wherein at least one element of the microarray is a polynucleotide of claim 11.

26. (Previously Presented) A method of generating an expression profile of a sample which contains polynucleotides, the method comprising:

- a) labeling the polynucleotides of the sample,
- b) contacting the elements of the microarray of claim 25 with the labeled polynucleotides of the sample under conditions suitable for the formation of a hybridization complex, and
- c) quantifying the expression of the polynucleotides in the sample.

27. (New) A method of detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 10, the method comprising:

- a) amplifying said target polynucleotide or fragment thereof using polymerase chain reaction amplification, and
- b) detecting the presence or absence of said amplified target polynucleotide or fragment thereof, and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof.

28. (New) A method of assessing toxicity of a test compound, the method comprising:

- a) treating a biological sample containing nucleic acids with the test compound,
- b) hybridizing the nucleic acids of the treated biological sample with a probe comprising at least 20 contiguous nucleotides of a polynucleotide of claim 10 under conditions whereby a specific hybridization complex is formed between said probe and a target polynucleotide in the biological sample, said target polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 10 or fragment thereof,
- c) quantifying the amount of hybridization complex, and
- d) comparing the amount of hybridization complex in the treated biological sample with the amount of hybridization complex in an untreated biological sample,

wherein a difference in the amount of hybridization complex in the treated biological sample is indicative of toxicity of the test compound.

29. (New) A method of screening for a compound that modulates the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

- a) combining the polypeptide of claim 1 with at least one test compound under conditions permissive for the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1,
- b) assessing the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1 in the presence of the test compound, and
- c) comparing the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1 in the presence of the test compound with the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1 in the absence of the test compound, wherein a change in the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1 in the presence of the test compound is indicative of a compound that modulates the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1.